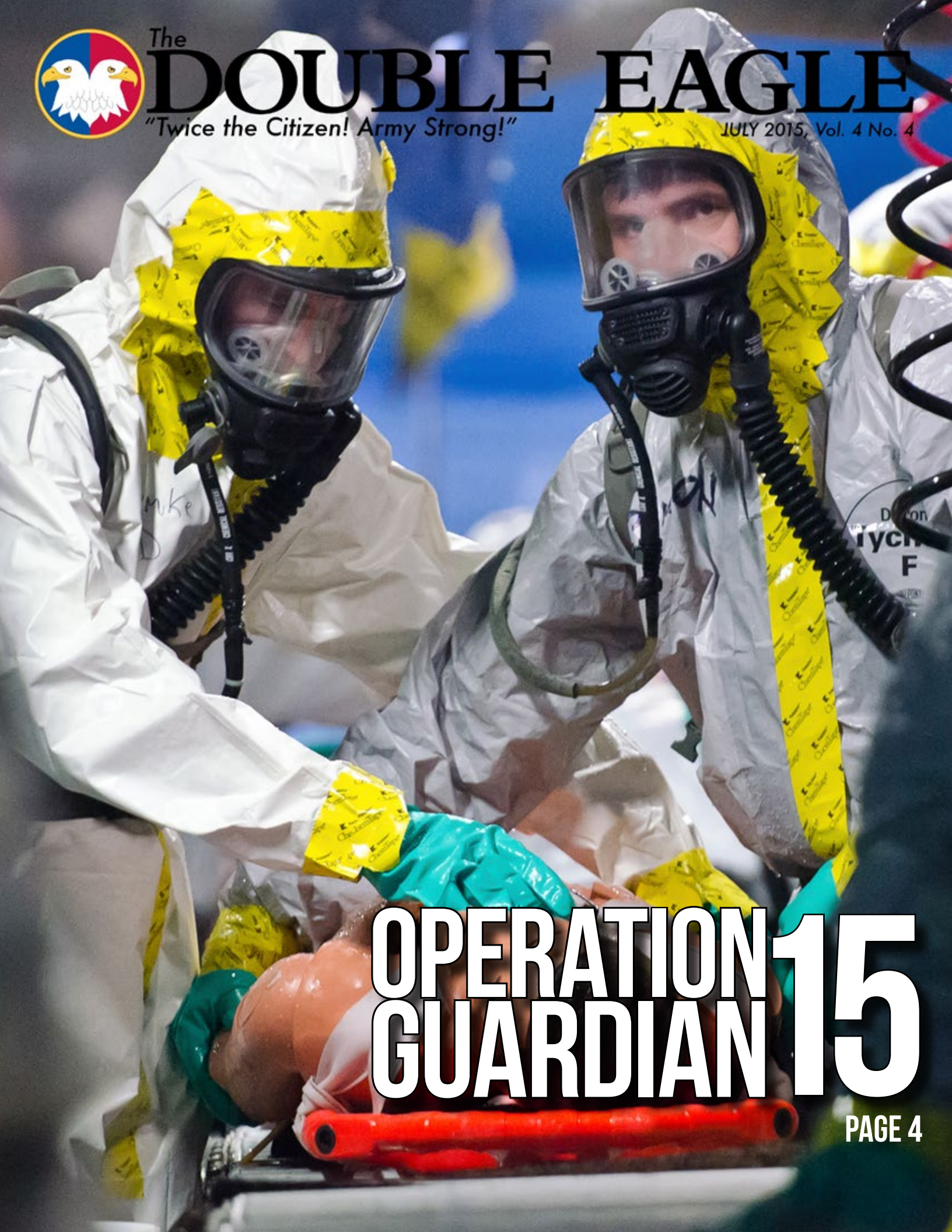




The DOUBLE EAGLE

"Twice the Citizen! Army Strong!"

JULY 2015, Vol. 4 No. 4



OPERATION GUARDIAN 15

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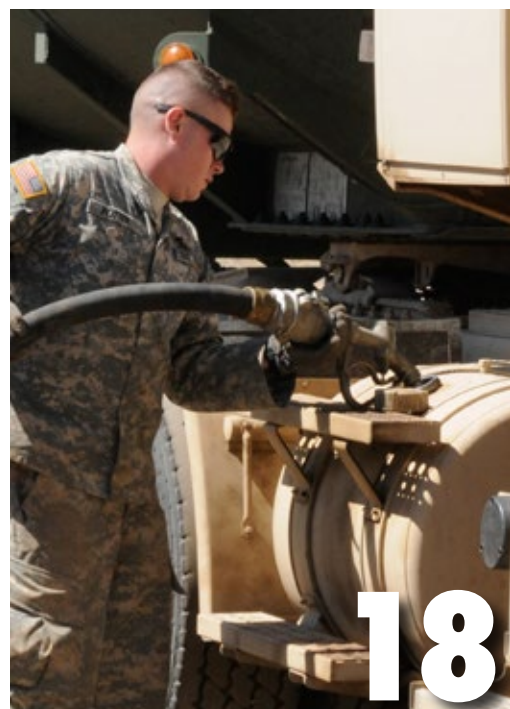


This page is **INTERACTIVE**.
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COVER STORY:

U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers in hazardous material suits go through simulated decontamination procedures on mannequins after being exposed to simulated chemicals during Operation Guardian 15, June 25, near Ocala, Fla. More than 500 Army Reserve Soldiers and an active Army unit are participating in the exercise to test their search and rescue, hazardous materials, decontamination, and medical triage capabilities. (Photo by Brian Godette/U.S. Army Reserve Command)



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DOUBLE EAGLE





JULY 2015 VOL. 4, No. 4

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
HEADQUARTERS,
U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE,
FORT BRAGG, N.C.

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HONORABLE MENTION: 2013



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Double Eagle back issues.**

Summer Surgery Sucks

As I reported last month in my column "A Pain in My Own Neck... and Arm" I did indeed have surgery June 10 on my right wrist and right elbow to alleviate some nerve and numbness in my arm and fingers.

During the pre-op appointment my surgeon said that if he had to move the ulnar nerve from where the good Lord intended for it to be, I would be in a cast and sling.

Hoping for the best, I proceeded with some trepidation that I wouldn't wake up in a cast.

Imagine my disappointment in the recovery room when I woke up and looked down at my right arm placed across my chest.

"He transposed the nerve, didn't he?" I asked my recovery room nurse as I looked at my casted hand peeking out from a black sling.

"Yes sir, he did," she replied. "Now just lay there and rest."

Rest?! Are you kidding me?! I'm a photojournalist! We don't know the meaning of rest!

But alas, I laid there, resigned to my fate.

Never one to do anything half-way, I suppose it was my destiny to be confined to a cast and sling.

The surgeon said that ulnar nerve "plucked like a guitar string" so he was forced to move it over the bone and out of its natural place of rest.

Rest! There is that word again!

Fortunately, I was only in a cast for a week. But, as I said earlier, never to do anything half-way, I had to have surgery at the start of the sweltering North Carolina summer - more than a week of 100-plus temperatures.

I've had a summer cast before ... when I was a kid. But being in a cast as an adult in the summer is no laughing matter.

It's hot outside and even hotter underneath all that gauze, cotton, and plaster. Not to mention trying to do anything with your arm bent at 90 degrees when it's 110 degrees outside.

Luckily, the cast came off in a week. But then the surgeon issued the ultimate death sentence for a photojournalist.

"You are on limited weight lifting for four weeks," he said.

"How much is limited weight?" I asked.

"No more than two or three pounds," he said.

Two or three pounds?! I have lenses that weigh more than that! My cameras start around five pounds before lenses are attached!

It's going to be a long, long summer.



Timothy L. Hale
Editor

Timothy L. Hale, a U.S. Air Force veteran, is an award-winning photojournalist and editor of the USARC Double Eagle. He is member of a number of professional organizations to include: Nikon Professional Services, National Press Photographer's Association, and the North Carolina Press Photographer's Association. The views expressed in this column are expressly his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, the Department of the Army, and/or the Department of Defense.

OPERATION GUARDIAN 15

STORY & PHOTOS BY BRIAN GODETTE
U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

PERRY, GA — CRUSHED RUBBLE, DESTROYED BUILDING STRUCTURES, DEMOLISHED CARS, HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SUITS AND MEDICAL TENTS LITTERED THE LANDSCAPE.

TO THE UNKNOWING PUBLIC, AN ASSUMPTION THAT A DISASTER JUST TOOK PLACE, BUT FOR THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR RESPONSE TASK FORCE, TRAINING HAS BEGUN, AND THE SOLDIERS WERE TRAINING TO HELP.

MORE THAN 500 ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS AND AN ACTIVE ARMY UNIT PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION GUARDIAN 15, HERE, JUNE 26-29.

SEE GUARDIAN, PG 6



SEARCH AND RESCUE. U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 493rd Engineer Detachment, 412th Theater Engineer Command, from Pascagoula, Mississippi, search for victims in a collapsed parking garage during Operation Guardian 15, near Perry, Ga., June 27. More than 500 Army Reserve Soldiers and an active Army unit are participating in the exercise to test their search and rescue, hazardous material, decontamination, and medical triage capabilities.

TRAINING TO SAVE LIVES

Operation Guardian 15 tested the search and rescue, hazardous materials, decontamination, and medical triage capabilities of the Soldiers, over two phases. Phase one began near Ocala, Florida, with simulated natural and man-made disaster operations for seven days.

The units then prepared for convoy movement from Ocala to Perry, Georgia where they initiated phase two of their training, June 27.

“This exercise (Operation Guardian) has been more than four years in the making,” said Lt. Col. Timothy Snider, action operator, U.S. Army Reserve Command G-33.

“What Operation Guardian does is allow the Soldiers to come out and work together as one unit, building cohesion,” said Master Sgt. Jeremy Mann, operations noncommissioned officer.

A major factor of the training was the evaluation of the Army Reserve enabling Defense Support of Civil Authorities. Army Reserve Soldiers can rapidly respond to disasters in order to save lives, prevent human suffering and mitigate great property damage, Snider said.

See **GUARDIAN**, Pg. 8

DECONTAMINATION. A U.S. Army Reserve Soldier in a hazardous material suit goes through simulated decontamination after being exposed to chemicals during Operation Guardian 15, June 25, near Ocala, Fla.



IN THE FACE OF DISASTER



GUARDIAN

from Pg. 8



“The forces that we have on the ground here are tied to CBRN Response Enterprise, so they would be expected to be moving toward the objective within 96 hours of notification,” Snider said. “It is fast, but our units have proven they can move faster.”

The participating units included the 92nd CBRN Battalion from Decatur Georgia, the 388th CBRN Company from Junction City, Wisconsin, Minnesota, the 392nd CBRN Company from Little Rock, Arkansas, the 704th CBRN Company from Arden Hills, the 493rd Engineer Detachment (Fire Fighter) from Pascagoula, Mississippi, the 659th Engineer Company from Spokane, Washington, the 331st Medical Detachment from Perrine, Florida, and the 546th Area Support Medical Company, an



ADDED REALISM. Realistic role players are vital to adding realism during training events such as Operation Guardian 15. A role player in Ocala, top left, shows off a simulated puncture wound for the medical personnel to triage.

HIGH ANGLE RECOVERY. A U.S. Army Reserve Soldier, top, from the 493rd Engineer Detachment, 412th Theater Engineer Command, from Pascagoula, Miss., repels down a training tower to recover a simulated victim.

CUTTING AWAY. U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, above, in a hazardous material suits cut clothing off a mannequin victim that was exposed to simulated chemicals as part of the decontamination procedures at Operation Guardian 15.

See **GUARDIAN**, Pg. 10



PLANNING A RESCUE. U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, top, from the 493rd Engineer Detachment, 412th Theater Engineer Command, from Pascagoula, Miss, discuss approach possibilities before going into a collapsed parking garage during Operation Guardian 15, near Perry, Ga., June 27. Below, simulated ambulatory victims are escorted from the collapsed parking garage.

GUARDIAN

from Pg. 8

active duty unit from Fort Hood, Texas.

"It's a multitude of different talent here, and we are trying to make sure we encapsulate the total integration of the military forces with this exercise," Mann said.

"We work well together," said 1st Sgt. Dedraf Blash, 546 ASMC. "We have to learn each others set-up because we only have a certain time frame that we have to get everything ready for patient care."

"Slow is smooth, smooth is fast, so if we know what we are doing we can get set-up quickly and help more people," said Pfc. Joshua Bragger, 388th Chemical Company.

The simulated training in Ocala prepared the Soldiers for their evaluations by producing the after effects of a hurricane impact zone that the units had to respond to.

The key pieces to this training included urban search and rescue, going through confined space and collapsed structure, followed by mass casualty decontamination elements, Mann said.

Role players, played by local volunteers, simulated injured victims trapped in rubble, or affected by a chemical leak, which prompted the Soldiers to set up decontamination tents, medical triage tents, and extract trapped victims.

"We make it challenging for the Soldiers, to ensure that they get something out of the training, and want to come back and do it all over again," Mann said.

A great deal of the unit integration happens with urban search and rescue, where if any casualties are found the urban search and rescue team will bring those victims out and send them through the mass casualty decontamination, to get them cleaned off so medical treatment can be rendered.

The 546th ASMC Soldiers seamlessly engaged with their Army Reserve counterparts to fulfill the mission in which they all shared.

"Our role in Operation Guardian is to support the chemical companies with mass casualty decontamination, acute trauma treatment, life saving procedures, mitigate human suffering and greater property damage," Blash said.

The start of phase two for Operation Guardian led the Soldiers to Guardian Center, near Perry, Georgia, a fully-equipped training facility that replicated a small cityscape, complete with collapsed buildings, smashed cars, rubble, radiation active points, fire simulators, underground tunnels and a subway train station.

"This is as real of a scenario that we can hope to practice in. Besides being deployed to another Katrina or another 9/11, this is as close as we could hope to get," said Sgt. Daniel Keating, team leader with the 493rd.

"This is live rubble piles, live radiation sources, and it's definitely realistic," Keating said.

This was the first time Soldiers have trained in the city-like training facility, and were excited to do so.

"Guardian Center is different because it's a real full scale city, and not just random rubble everywhere, but things like an actual parking garage that was collapsed. Things that we are actually going to see in the real world mission," Keating said.

Individuals from U.S. Army North, alongside members of several civilian authorities, evaluated the Soldiers, ensuring they fulfilled the task to standard.

"HAZMAT, vehicle machinery extrication, ropes, structural collapse, and trench are the five competencies that we were trained on at Florida State Fire College, and those are the five competencies we will be evaluated on here," Keating said.

The importance of working with civil authorities added to the benefit of the training for many of the Soldiers.

"Their entire job is doing what we do once a month, so to learn the skills and the tricks of the trade that help them move efficiently is extremely important to us," Keating said.

Keating, who was recently promoted within his unit, acknowledged direct benefit of the training and learning opportunities, like that of Operation Guardian, provided by the Army Reserve, to his civilian career.

"I just got hired with a fire rescue team in Pensacola, Florida, my hometown. I think the entire

reason I got hired is due to the Army,” Keating said. “They gave me my MOS, and they sent me to training school, the fire academy in 2008 and the U.S. Army Reserve Academy in the beginning of 2014.”

Staff Sgt. Robert Matuey, team leader with the 493rd, and civilian firefighter in Mississippi, relayed the feelings many in his unit held about the training during Operation Guardian and at the Guardian Center.

“With the valuable training we’re getting, I know as a task force member on the civilian side, that you would die to have training like this. This is top of the line training right here,” Matuey said.

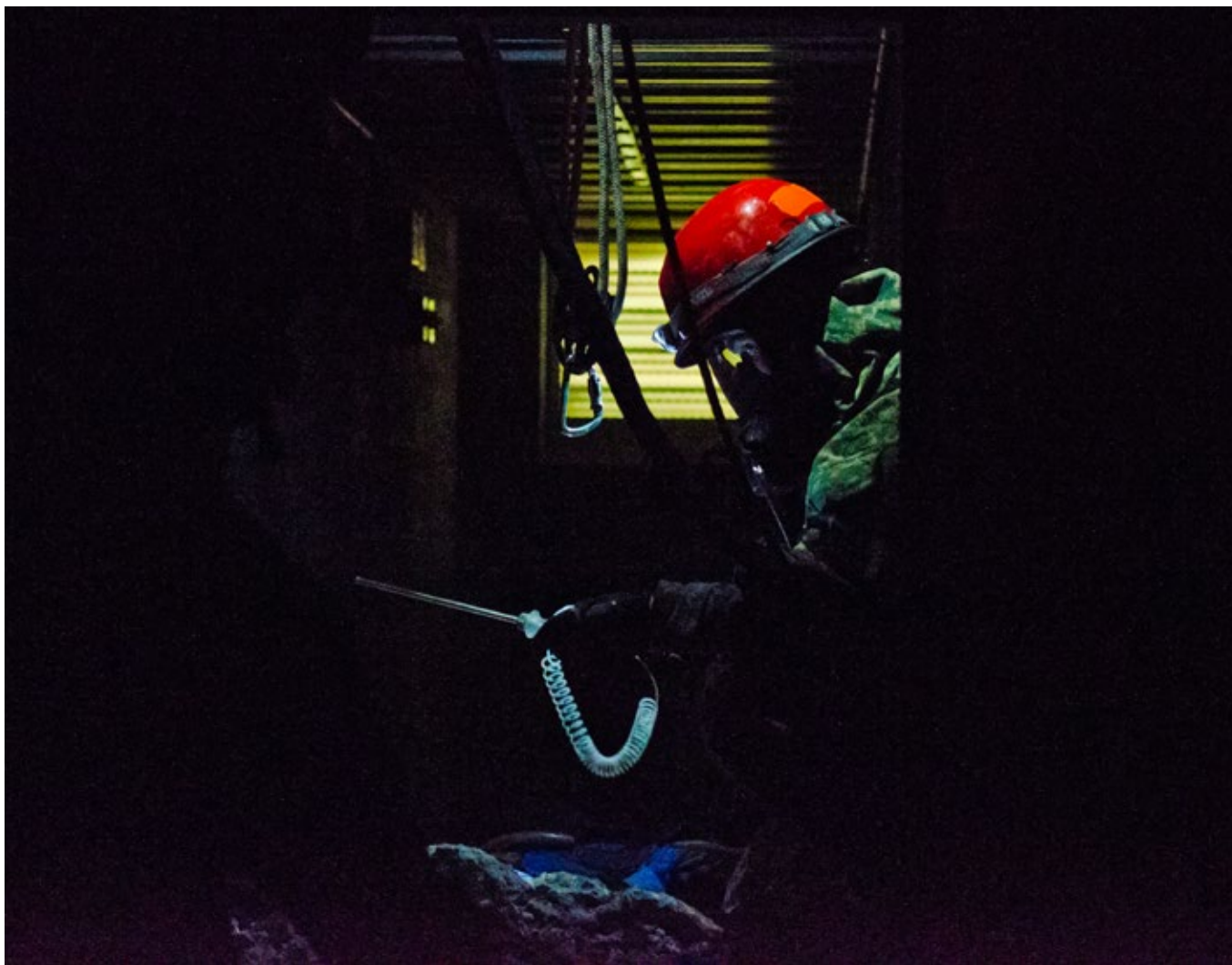
The final day of the multi-day training, which tested the Soldiers physically and emotionally, was capped off with a huge event, testing every capability

simultaneously- search and rescue, radiological exposure.

The cityscape of Guardian Centers, and local volunteer role players provided the background to the multi-level disaster, efficiently handled by U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers.

“The Army Reserve brings a great multitude of different talents, because we’re not just Soldiers, we have other jobs,” said 1st Sgt. Gary Boda, 388th CBRN Company. “We have Soldiers who are doctors, farmers, mechanics, electricians, so we are civilians too, and we understand it’s nice to have someone there to help you and your Family out.

“Save American lives – that’s what we are here to do. To let the public know that they have someone that in their time of need they can come to for help,” Boda said. 🇺🇸



COLLAPSED TUNNEL. A U.S. Army Reserve Soldier from the 493rd Engineer Detachment, 412th Theater Engineer Command, from Pascagoula, Miss., checks oxygen levels before recovering simulated victims in a confined space under a collapsed building during Operation Guardian 15, June 29, near Perry, Ga.

A photograph of surgeons in an operating room, wearing blue scrubs, masks, and caps. One surgeon in the foreground is wearing a blue cap and a green mask, looking down at a patient. Another surgeon in the background is wearing a yellow mask. The scene is brightly lit, and the focus is on the surgeons' hands and faces.

GLOBAL MEDIC 15

Story & Images Begin on Page 14



Speaking the universal language



PREPARING FOR SURGERY. (Previous pages) U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers with the 94th Combat Support Hospital and British Army Reserve medical Soldiers prepare to operate on a simulated injured Soldier after a simulated attack during the Global Medic Exercise at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, June 18.

(Above) A makeshift British Army rank structure is displayed near a simulated patient during Global Medic.

Global Medic 15 is the premier medical field training event in the Department of Defense and is the only joint accredited exercise conceived, planned and executed by Army Reserve Soldiers. Service members from multiple DOD branches train together in a joint force environment, further strengthening their abilities to serve together around the globe.

Story & photos by **BRIAN GODETTE**
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT McCOY, Wis. – Two military cultures, divided by a common language and united through medicine, recently found a common training stage.

The U.S. Army Reserve Medical Readiness and Training Command provided an extensive medical training opportunity for military medical professionals, to include the three components of the Army and coalition nations to include the British Army, to train together during Global Medic here, June 6-27.

Global Medic is the premier medical field training event in the Department of Defense, and is the only joint accredited exercise conceived, planned and executed by the Army Reserve. During Global Medic, service members from multiple DoD branches, and allied nations, train together in a joint force environment, further strengthening their abilities to serve together around the globe.

The real-world, scenario-based training at this year's Global Medic highlighted much of that strengthening at various combat support

e of medicine at Global Medic 15

hospitals set up on several forward operating bases, where Air Force, Navy, Army Reserve and British Army Reserve Soldiers, were integrated to perform the medical tasks.

“We are receiving patients that are being MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) in with serious injuries that they have theoretically sustained in the battle field,” said Lt. Col. Gregory Lacy, surgeon with the 228th Combat Support Hospital.

As they would while deployed, the medical staff at the 228th

received communications on incoming injuries from the field, with an estimated time of arrival via helicopter or ground transportation.

“What we have to do as a hospital is assess and determine who are the most critical patients going through our facility, and then find the most effective way to get them through the triage process and get them resuscitated so that they can get to the operating room for life saving measures,” said Lacy.

The atmosphere on the simulated FOB, as well as the hospital,

mirrored the deployed locations, with a full force of sustainment Soldiers, gate guards, tents, tactical operation command points, and varying service uniforms conducting their job specific duties.

Though the setup was simulated, the medical Soldiers took their duties seriously.

“We practice sound medicine and we will never compromise patient care, so that means having the best supplies and maintaining a sterile environment,” Lacy said.

“If you don’t have a functional operating room in a CSH (combat

See **MEDIC**, Pg. 16



MOBILE IMAGING. Spc. Nick Cortez, 228th Combat Support Hospital, 807th Medical Command, operates the only mobile CT scanner in the U.S. Army Reserve during Global Medic 15 at Fort McCoy, Wis., June 17.

MEDIC

from Pg. 15

support hospital) then you really don't have a CSH," he added.

As patients came in with various trauma injuries surgeons, nurses, and other medical staff fluidly worked together to treat each case.

The ocean blue medical scrubs gave the staff an appearance of uniformity, but with closer attention the differences in uniform and even in accents gave way that some of these Soldiers were part of the British Army.

"It's been great working with the U.S. forces. I think we all bring different skills to the party," said Staff Sgt. Debbie Foreham, assigned to the 207th Field Hospital, British Army Reserve.

Foreham, who spent 13 years in the British Army as a nurse before joining the British Army Reserve, worked with U.S. forces while deployed in Afghanistan. That interaction led to her appreciation for the cross-training within the medical field.

"I think it's real important that we come over and conduct this training with the U.S. troops. If we iron out our problems during training, we establish those relationships, and it makes it easier to do the jobs we all signed up to do," Foreham said.

MEDICAL SIMULATION. A simulated casualty (this page) is treated by Soldiers with the U.S. Army Reserve 228th Combat Support Hospital, alongside British Army Reserve Soldiers with the 207th Field Hospital, support several simulated medical functions during the Global Medic 15 at Fort McCoy, Wis.

On the opposite page, a U.S. Army Reserve surgeon removes a bullet from a simulated patient.

The two military cultures worked in 24-hour operations during Global Medic to enhance those relationships.

"At the end of the day, funny enough, even though we speak the same language, the accents and dialect were the biggest problems. So we would have different names for the equipment or paperwork, but at the end of the day we had the same goals and reached the same outcome," Foreham said.

"We know that these medical resources are not infinite, and in the battlefield more of the missions have gone to coalition initiatives. We are sharing these missions with our brethren in the military of various other countries, and the great thing about medicine is it's universal," Lacy said.

The Medical Readiness and Training Command provided the supplies for Global Medic to ensure the realism during training prepared all the Soldiers for what they could encounter in the field, as well as hands-on experience with medical care they might not see in their civilian careers.

"Many of us in our civilian lives have a garrison type practice where we won't see such a high level of trauma," Lacy said. "The Medical Readiness Training



Command have been doing a very good job in simulating these critical patients with the material they've been coming into our hospital with, and eventually making it into the operating room."

"For example, we are seeing these patients come in with these body 'cut suits' which contain organs, and are full of fluids, like blood, and we are making surgical incisions. This is as close to the real life patient body as you can possibly get," Lacy said.

The sentiments of the surgeons were echoed by a surgeon's "best friend" in the operating room, the anesthesiologist.

"Working here at Global Medic is really complementary to what my experiences are in my civilian role as an anesthesiologist," said Lt. Col. Craig McFarland, lead anesthesiologist with the 228th.

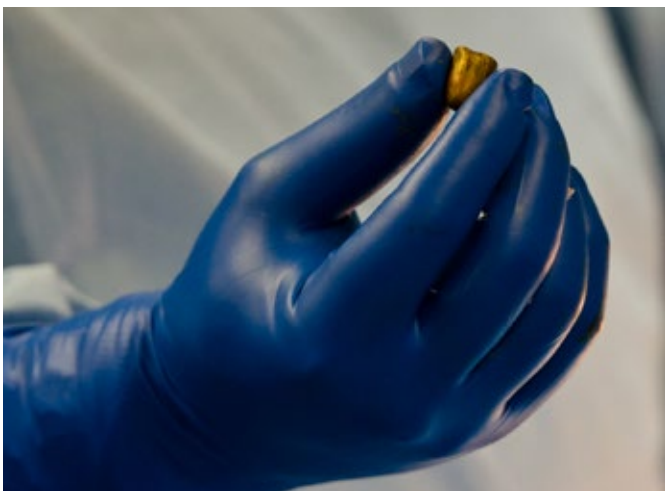
"In the civilian world, we always have more providers and medical professionals than we have patients, here we need to be a lot more inventive, more flexible, and be more clever with how we are using limited resources for the good of the most patients," McFarland said.

Both the U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers and British Army Reserve Soldiers brought civilian work assets to the operating table, with many of them working in the medical field full-time, adding to their military capabilities.

"We have to integrate our assets with their assets to better utilize the resources that we have medically so that we can get efficient care for the Soldiers that need our help," Lacy said.

Global Medic creates the catalyst to enhance those resources and maintain the sound working relationships according to many of the Soldiers involved.

"The real value in Global Medic is to not lose



the historical knowledge that we have gained in over 10 years cooperating together, as a joint force, as a coalition force, particularly in Afghanistan," said Col. Owen Jones, 202nd Field Hospital, British Army, commanding officer.

"What this exercise is doing, is enabling us to come together, share best practices, move forward, and look at how we can best use each other's skills," Jones said.

To ensure the Soldiers are properly engaging in their duties and best using their skills, observer-controllers with the MRTC, who have practical deployment knowledge in the field, watched and evaluated every scenario closely.

"The OCs, who are evaluating the training have been very good at giving us feedback as to what we are doing good, what we're doing not so well, what we can improve on, and showing some of us who have not deployed, how this is close to real life scenarios," Lacy said.

The OCs had a targeted plan of action to assess the Soldiers, both U.S. and British, in order to provide proper feedback.

"At the beginning of the exercise, the commander identifies the commander training objectives and that's exactly what us, as observer-controllers, look at. We look at what that specific commander wants to look at, so if they want to train on laboratory services or radiology, we make sure we cover down on those sections making sure they hit every individual task and are trained on those task," said Maj. Amy Reynolds, O-C, HHC, 3rd Medical Training Brigade.

The Global Medic exercise, the premier joint accredited training event for medical professionals, combined the training skills of two nations, working through cultural differences in practice, for the common good of all military.

"We achieve the same objective, even-though we have different people doing it, a lot of our procedures are very similar, but I think it helps if we both understand what the differences are so we can achieve the common goal," Jones said.

"I think the United Kingdom and the U.S. probably are two nations separated by a common language, as stated by Winston Churchill. But over previous years, we've worked very hard to understand each other and also be mindful of the differences in our culture and our language," Jones said. 🇬🇧 🇺🇸



GAS AND GO. U.S. Army Reserve Pfc. Cole Potter, a petroleum supply specialist, pumps fuel into a truck during the Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise (QLLEX) on Fort Huachuca, Ariz., June 10, 2015. Potter is assigned to the 910th Quartermaster Company, from Ardmore, Okla. The unit is tasked with running the retail fuel point in the field during the QLLEX. (Photo by Sgt. Beth Raney, 363rd Public Affairs Detachment)

QLLEX 2015: Largest logistics field exercise in United States

Story by Capt. JILL ODELL
364th Press Camp Headquarters

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – A majority of the U.S. Army's petroleum and water units are currently in the Army Reserve.

The Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise is a multi-component operation that allows reserve units to conduct real-world petroleum and water purification support in a combat training environment.

While delivering bulk petroleum and purifying water may not seem as important as the latest weaponry or fighter plane, more than 4,000 logistics Soldiers in the QLLEX 2015 may disagree. The 475th Quartermaster Group out of Farrell, Pennsylvania hosted the exercise from June 8-16. QLLEX is the largest field training exercise of its kind with real-world logistic operations at the tactical, operational, and strategic level.

A theater level headquarters, the 475th QM Group based the QLLEX headquarters in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin and managed logistics operations at five other sites across the United States at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, Fort Lewis, Washington, Fort Dix, New Jersey, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.

Sgt. Maj. Larry Houston, with Support Operations for the 475th QM Group, said the Soldiers are running 24-hour operations

during the exercise.

"We receive missions from the Defense Logistics Agency," Houston said. "Then we tasks missions to our down trace battalions. They go to the defense fuel supply points, pick up the fuel, and then take it to the using customers."

The exercise began 32 years ago as the Petroleum Oil and Lubricant Exercise, but once water purification training was added in 2004, it developed into the QLLEX.

The initial focus of the training has broadened through the years and now includes bulk petroleum distribution, water purification and distribution, and field services support, such as laundry and shower services.

"It's important because it gives the Soldiers actual hands-on work with the equipment," Houston, a member of the 475th QM Group, said. "It's not training fuel we are using. It is real live fuel that goes to real customers."

Almost doubling the fuel pumped at last year's event, logistics Soldiers under the 475th QM Group pumped a total of more than 4 million gallons of fuel pump at QLLEX 2015.


Water purification units use the process of reverse osmosis to purify the lake water used at QLLEX 2015 by using Tactical

Water Purification Systems that can produce 1,500 gallons of purified water per hour and Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units that can pump out 3,000 gallons of purified water per hour.

"We take the most nasty, vile water and purify it into drinking water," explained Staff Sgt. Kacee Coster, a water purification specialist with the 651st Quartermaster Company out of Casper, Wyoming. "Everyone needs water. The mission is over within 24 hours if you don't have water. Without clean water, or any water, Soldiers can't do their jobs."

The training obtained during the QLLEX not only helps prepare the logistic units for operations in combat environments, but it also helps prepare them to respond to state-side disasters, explained Houston.

"If there was a disaster, if it was sever enough, they could call us in," Houston said. "For Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina, they called up some of our water units to purify water, so the residents had water to drink."

"People think that they just go to their local gas station and get fuel, but there is a lot more to it behind the scenes," he continued. "It takes a lot of work and coordination. It's a vital role for the military." 

Conboy: Still Room for Improvement

Story by **TIMOTHY L. HALE**
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Since the beginning of 2015 the U.S. Army Reserve has been on a campaign to increase recruiting and retention while at the same time trimming away excess in the ranks.

Operation Full Court Press is inspiring great strides in recruiting and retention but there is room for improvement when it comes to meeting end-strength goals.

This was the message from Maj. Gen. David Conboy, U.S. Army Reserve deputy commanding general for operations, during a June interview.

“It is working. We’ve seen very significant success,” Conboy said. “Since the start of the year, we’re up a little more than 3,100 Soldiers, in terms of our formations. We’re over 198,000 (total force strength). That’s where we were initially focused on and now we’re pressing to see if we can get over 199,000. That’s very important to help us meet our end-strength objectives.”

Currently, Congress funds the Army Reserve end-strength at 205,000 Soldiers. Those numbers have fluctuated since 2000 as Army Reserve support of Army contingency missions have dictated.

U.S. Army Reserve Command G-1 officials said at the end of 2000, there were nearly 207,000 serving in the Army Reserve.

Those numbers increased to nearly 212,000 in 2003 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and the



Maj. Gen. David Conboy, U.S. Army Reserve Command deputy commander for operations discusses the need for continuing Operation Full Court Press.

nearly two-year old Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2005, Army Reserve end-strength leveled off at a little more than 189,000, staying there through 2007.

In 2008, the Army’s operational focus shifted from Iraq to Afghanistan and the need for Army Reserve Soldiers increased with end-strength reaching a high-water mark of a little more than 205,000.

Those numbers started falling again in 2009 down to 195,000 before slowly climbing this year back to 198,000.

“Maintaining strength is so important because it is fundamental to our readiness,” Conboy said. “We have to have the right Soldiers – our women and men in uniform – to be able to accomplish our mission. Before we move

on and address leader training and collective training it all starts with having the right number of Soldiers in individual readiness. Everything we do has to be associated with building readiness.”

While Conboy said the numbers are increasing he is not ready to declare a manpower victory.

He said the goal was to reduce “flags,” which can range from APFT and height and weight failures, to unsatisfactory participants, by 50 percent but leaders in the field haven’t reached that goal.

“We can do better there,” Conboy said. He added the retention mission and negating controllable losses is doing very well. We can’t let up.”

He cautioned that meeting desired end-state strength while keeping Soldiers who did not meet the standard in the ranks was not helpful in maintaining readiness.

“With Full Court Press, Lt. Gen. (Jeffrey) Talley directed that we re-double our efforts to bring Soldiers who are not meeting the standard into the standard. But in the end, if they can’t meet the standard they’re not helping our readiness and we have to administratively discharge them.”

Conboy said the success he has seen is leaders who are actively engaged with their units.

“What’s happening is engaged leaders are making a difference,” he said. “We have outstanding leaders in positions who want to make a difference in the lives of

the Soldiers and build readiness in their units.”

Senior U.S. Army Reserve officials have said that giving unit leaders the flexibility to take acceptable risks with processes, systems and training is helping turn the numbers around.

“I think our very best leaders will want to do that and will do that,” Conboy said. “That’s what being a commander is about. We can never do everything perfectly and to the standard. We clearly do not have the time or resources to do that.”

Conboy added that junior leaders need to be able to have that flexibility to make those decisions and their higher headquarters need to be supportive. By doing so, the junior leaders take ownership in the process to achieve and determine the results of training. What works for one unit will be different for other units depending on their

particular mission, Conboy said.

“It’s not about following a script. It’s about the outcome we are seeking to achieve and that outcome is building readiness in the best way possible,” he said. “So that’s where we need that creative and innovative leader. We can’t be risk-averse or a zero tolerant environment. When it comes to character and Army values, those are non-negotiable. In terms of everything else, we need to underwrite those even though they may not turn out to be perfect. It’s all about trying to do the right thing and learning.”

Another component of Full Court Press that is aiding in retention and recruiting is units that have active Family Readiness Groups, or FRGs.

“They (FRGs) are incredibly important,” Conboy said. “We say often that ‘we enlist a Soldier but we reenlist the Family.’ I think

that is particularly true in the Army Reserve.”

Conboy said that because Army Reserve units are not typically found on Army installations, having an active FRG is important.

“Having those robust Family Readiness Groups throughout our formations is important and building it into a weekend battle assembly is absolutely a great idea,” Conboy said.

“It comes down to engaged leaders and engaged Families at the local level that are doing the things that help our Soldiers stay ready to accomplish our mission,” Conboy said. “After 13 years of war, we’ve put an enormous burden on our Soldiers and our Families and we certainly owe it to both of them to provide the resources, systems, and framework to continue to advance FRGs and the great work they do.” 🇺🇸



INNOVATIVE AND INTERACTIVE TRAINING. A Soldier with the U.S. Army Reserve 312th Engineer Company, based in Duluth, Minn., fires his M4 rifle paintball gun, April 18, 2015, at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. One of the keys to success under Operation Full Court Press is allowing leaders the flexibility to provide innovative and interactive training in order to maintain readiness which could lead to retention and recruiting.

XVIII Airborne Corps becomes active and reserve multi-component force

Story & photos by BRIAN GODETTE
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - If you looked at the group of Soldiers conducting pre-flight safety procedures and airborne safety operations, it'd be hard to tell whose an active duty Soldier and who is reserve.

What was clear to see was a group of Soldiers, all wearing the "Sky Dragons" insignia on their uniforms, the official unit patch of the XVIII Airborne Corps, as they prepared for airborne operations at Pope Army Airfield, June 2.

Some of those Soldiers just happened to be Army Reserve Soldiers.

The Chief of Staff of the Army directed the General Officer Headquarters, corps division, to take a 25 percent staff reduction.

In order to maintain some of the same capabilities, a test pilot program involving the XVIII Airborne Corps and the 101st Airborne Division was established utilizing Army Reserve Soldiers to maintain those capabilities.

The change started March 16, 2015, and the corps transitioned to a multi-component unit with 650 active duty positions and 56 Army Reserve positions.

"The Corps lost 100 active duty Soldiers and we gained 56 Army Reserve positions, and we currently have 23 of those 56 positions assigned," said Sgt. Maj. Peter Sabo, XVIII Airborne Corps, Army Engagement Team.

Although over a decade of war has partnered the two components together before, the new program integrates the Army Reserve Soldiers in a different way.

"This is a little bit different than your traditional Army Reserve unit because they are assigned to the Corps, they are integrated into the Corps staff, and they are not a separate stand alone unit," he added.

With induction into the Corps of "Sky Dragons" comes some time in the sky.

"Part of the integration for those Soldiers that came here already Airborne qualified, we did a basic airborne refresher and new equipment training for the T-11 parachute," said Sabo. "We are doing an airborne operation with those Soldiers, and for some of them it's their first time jumping in over 10 years.

"The idea is not only for staff integration to do the mission, but also when it comes to airborne operations and other tactical training that the Corps is going to conduct," Sabo added.

The reserve Soldiers will do their 24 days of battle assemblies and their 29 days of annual training, not too exceed 53 days, while integrated into the Corps, unless the Soldier volunteers for that extra training.

"Because we are not doing traditional battle assemblies, most of the training will occur during the week, so we are combining battle assemblies quarterly almost, and depending on the training, it will be more on when the units need the Soldiers," said Sabo.

The opportunity for reserve Soldiers to train with the Corps garnered the attention of Soldiers from across the country.

Spc. Seferino Villagomez, a military mechanic from Los Angeles, jumped at the chance to go airborne and train in an active duty environment.

"The training here is great, and more hands on than my previous experience. You feel better knowing that when you deploy, you know your MOS (military occupational specialty)," Villagomez said.

Spc. Rebeka Coughlin, also a military mechanic, traveling from Maryland for the opportunity to train and go airborne with the Corps, was impressed with the amount of information she was able to receive in the limited time frame.

"Just the two months I've been training with them, I've learned so much. I learned what I'm supposed to know," Coughlin said. "They know our experience and they have been very patient with us."

In March, the XVIII ABN Corps conducted their first initial training where they brought in 13 TPU (troop program unit) Army Reserve Soldiers for a baseline in-processing.

"They did a diagnostic APFT, they did a 4-mile ruck march, they did weapons qualification, in-processed, and all within a four day period," said Sabo.

"All the feedback we've received so far from the different staff sections is that the Soldiers have come in highly motivated, well trained, and easy to integrate," Sabo said.

While most of the reserve Soldiers participating in the program joined for varying reasons, many attributed the interest to the challenge.

"I volunteered to come here, it was the challenge. Two weeks later I got a phone call saying I was a part of the XVIII Airborne Corps," said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Stafford.

"Speaking with some of the junior Soldiers that are coming in, some of them expressed some concerns but what ultimately made them do it is they wanted the challenge as well," said Stafford. "Everything that they need to be doing to be here, they're doing, they're really stepping up on the

physical and mental requirements."

The active duty Soldiers also rose to the occasion, integrating the reserve Soldiers into the unit, but also working with the shorter time frame to fully train them.

"It is a little bit of a cultural change within the Corps. For seven years it's been all active duty, and now having reserve Soldiers, some sections are trying to figure out how do we best use these Soldiers for just 53 days a year," Sabo said.

A task that leadership from the two components are working on together.

"The leadership have been phenomenal with integrating me and my team into the Corps, a painless process because we've had support from the top," Stafford said..

The active duty force is shrinking, therefore the Army Reserve is going to be looked upon to help them and maintain that same level of capability, according to Sabo.

"That was exactly why we went to those multi-component units with the XVIII Airborne Corps and the 101st Airborne Division, to show we can reduce the active duty footprint but maintain that same level to perform the mission that America calls on us to do," Sabo said. 🇺🇸



RIGGING UP. Sgt. 1st Class Eric Stafford, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier, has his parachute checked by a jump master as he and other Army Reserve Soldiers take part in airborne operations with active duty Soldiers as part of a new multi-component program, integrating reserve Soldiers with the XVIII Airborne Corps at Pope Army Airfield, Fort Bragg, N.C., June 2, 2015. The multi-component program allows the Army Reserve Soldiers to not only train with their active duty counterparts, but take on slots within the unit. The 101st Airborne Division is also transitioning to a multi-component unit.

NCFA visits Army Reserve at Fort Bragg, Raleigh

Story & photos by BRIAN GODETTE
U.S. Army Reserve Command

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Several members of the National Commission on the Future of the Army were here on the first stop of their listening tour, visiting with units and Soldiers of the Army Reserve.

NCFA consists of eight Commissioners: four appointed by Congress and four appointed by the President, and have the responsibility to make an assessment of the size and force structure of the Army's active and reserve components, then make recommendations that will strengthen the future of the Army.

Members of NCFA visiting Ft. Bragg included retired Gen. Carter Ham, former commander of U.S. Africa Command, and retired Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, former Chief of Army Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve Command commanding general, both members of the National Commission on the future of the Army, a non-discretionary Federal advisory committee that shall undertake a comprehensive study of the structure of the Army, and policy assumptions, visits with Soldiers and Command leaders at Fort Bragg N.C., June 9. North Carolina serves as one of the initial stops on the list of military locations the committee will visit in order to gain perspective on Army end strength, force mix components and aviation restructuring.

of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, retired Gen. Larry Ellis, former commander of Army Forces Command, and retired Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, former Chief of the Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command.

"It was wonderful to meet with the National Commission on the Future of the Army here at Fort Bragg, home of the United States Army Reserve Command headquarters," said Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, Chief of the Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command.

A discussion with the commission, detailing the unique global command capabilities of the Army Reserve, was of significant

importance to Talley.

"This was an opportunity to provide information on the Army Reserve's primary missions, roles, functions and capabilities in support of national and defense strategic requirements," Talley said.

"The Army Reserve's unique capabilities, sharpened in the private sector and honed in service to our country through contingency and theater security cooperation missions around the world, continue to provide a life-saving, life-sustaining force for the nation that is ready now, ready in times of crisis and ready for whatever threats and challenges the future holds," he said.

More of the information Talley referred to during the



meeting with the commission members at the FORSCOM/USARC headquarters was expanded upon in a written statement he presented to the NCFA.

The written statement detailed seven specific recommendations including maintaining three Army components and affirming their roles and missions, sustaining the Operational Reserve, improving Total Army Readiness with enhanced full-time support, and expanding the use of Army Reserve Soldiers in the homeland under Defense Support of Civil Authorities. The commission's arrival in North Carolina provides a statement to the Soldiers in the field, according to Stultz.

"Having the commission come out and visit with not only the U.S. Army Reserve Command, but also the Army Reserve units; we've been seeing the past couple of days means that we are wanting to hear from them," said Stultz.

After meeting with Army Reserve leaders at USARC headquarters, the members of the commission met with Army Reserve Soldiers with U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), where they had a chance to discuss the highlights and capabilities of the command.

In order to make the best use of their time while visiting, and to hear from a wider range of Soldiers, the commission members divided into two groups. The first group, which included Lamont, the NCFA vice Chair, engaged with aviation Soldiers from the 169th Aviation Company at Simmons Army Airfield, while

the second group, which included Stultz, discussed the capabilities of the 108th Military Intelligence Battalion with Soldiers at the Army Reserve Center on Fort Bragg.

The interaction with the Soldiers allowed the members of the commission to hear from those in the field, exactly what Talley touched upon when referring to the Army Reserve's unique capabilities.

In order to educate the Fayetteville community, which relies heavily on a military presence, the NCFA held a public meeting, taking comments from community leaders and concerned citizens as well as describing the Commission's role in the coming months.

"All those things (outlined in the NCFA tasks) are going to fit in what we have to look at, and then make recommendations to the President and Congress, and we are required to do that by the 1st of February next year, and there isn't any give on that, we will have that report done," said Thomas Lamont, NCFA Vice Chair.

Ham, the NCFA Chair, wanted to make clear to everyone with interest in their visit that their agenda is for the assessment of size and force structure and nothing more. A concern of base closure was brought up by many military and non-military members.

"What we're not about is Base Realignment and Closure. That's not who we are, that's not what we do," Ham said.

"We're in the information gathering stage right now, we're all sponges trying to soak up all the

information we can get and figure out what is best for our nation in how we restructure the Guard, the Reserve, and the Army, as we go forward," Lamont said.

The commission members, who have held command positions within the Active duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve, appeared to be back in a familiar environment when visiting with the different Soldiers, often engaging in war stories. But the commissioners left no doubt in the minds of those Soldiers of their impartial nature.


"We are all going to be very objective here, taking off our Guard and Reserve hats and do what we think is right for all of us," Lamont said. "This is going to be tough."

"We're not forming any opinions, we're seeking input, and we're gathering information. We really want to hear from the troops in the field, the commanders in the field, and then start to formulate what the future of the Army really looks like, based on what they are telling us," Stultz said.

While a level of uncertainty for the future may exist for some Army Reserve's Soldiers, Stultz wanted to ensure them the value they hold to our nation.

"They (the Soldiers) can feel confident that we understand the value that the reserve components, both the Guard and the Reserve, bring to our nation and the importance of having them. They can trust that we are going to make the decision that is best for our country, best for our nation, and that includes them," Stultz said. 🇺🇸

BRING IT HOME:



Bring It Home

"28 Days For Life"

Chief Army Reserve July 2015

Distraction Kills Citizen-Soldiers

- Since FY13 three Army Reserve Not in a Duty Status Citizen-Soldiers have died as a direct consequence of distraction.
- Protect lives by never texting or talking on the phone while driving.
- Speak out if the driver is distracted.
- Encourage friends and family to drive phone-free

In FY13, a Citizen-Soldier out for an evening walk (and texting) was run down by a motor vehicle. In FY14 another was texting while driving his vehicle resulting in a fatal crash. In FY15 a third was killed in his automobile when the driver of a commercial truck caused the accident by talking on a cell phone while driving.

Distraction is:

- Any activity that diverts a person's attention from the primary task at hand
- Distraction increases risk

Where operating a vehicle is concerned, common examples of distraction include:

- Changing radio stations
- Eating
- Music
- GPS
- Managing unruly kids in the back seat
- The modern biggie, using electronics to talk/text

Reading or responding to a simple text takes at least five seconds.

- At 55 mph you travel the length of a football field without looking through your windshield!
- For five entire seconds, you totally abandon your primary task and risk becomes uncontrolled.

"Bring It Home!" There is no phone call, text, music or any activity worth risking your or someone else's life. "Bring It Home", eliminate distractions while driving and save a life.



DISTRACTIONS KILL!

Story by EREWA JAMES
USARC Safety Office

Distraction is any activity that diverts a person's attention from the primary task at hand thereby increasing the risk.

Where operating a vehicle is concerned, common examples of distraction include: changing radio stations, eating, managing unruly kids in the back seat, and the modern biggie, using electronics to talk or text.

Consider this. Reading or responding to a simple text usually takes about five seconds. At 55 mph you travel the length of a football field without seeing a single thing through your windshield! For five entire seconds, you totally abandon your primary task allowing your risk to become uncontrolled.

I used to talk and text while driving. I don't do it anymore.

One Saturday night, a friend called and we all decided to go out. About 10:30 p.m., we hop in her car heading out for destination unknown. I'm in the front seat fooling with the GPS in order to find a club. We're excited, it's Girls

Night! The music is loud, it's raining and we are caught up in just about everything except the dark winding road.

We can't decide where to go and my friend, our driver, decides to call out for a recommendation. There are twin traffic lights ahead, one red and the other green. She's engrossed talking on the phone and we all start yelling "Slow Down!" Too late, she slams on the brakes and we slide through the intersection on the wet road. I see another vehicle coming from my left and everything goes into slow motion as I wait for the impact.

Both cars are totaled, and the injuries minor - simply because we were wearing seatbelts. Right then and there we all knew this could have been a disaster with fatalities. Within minutes there were sirens blaring, an ambulance, two fire trucks and multiple police cars approaching. We were dumbfounded when they drove past us! About 10 minutes later a police officer and two tow trucks arrived to help us.

Ours was a fully preventable accident. We were distracted before we even got in the car! That evening any one of us could have died for lack of 10 minutes risk planning, selecting a destination in advance, checking weather and not allowing the driver to be distracted. The only thing we did right was wear seatbelts and given our distraction it's a wonder we even did that!

Do you remember the first emergency responders that passed by us? They were responding to a young student on his way back to the university campus. He was driving and texting his parents saying he was almost back at school. He lost control of his vehicle and it flipped killing him instantly.

There is no phone call, text, music or any other activity worth risking your or someone else's life. "Bring It Home", eliminate distractions while driving and save a life.

MANAGE THE OTHER 28 DAYS FOR LIFE! 

ARMY RESERVE FACT:

Since Fiscal Year 2013, a total of three Army Reserve Not in a Duty Status Citizen-Soldiers died as a direct consequence of distraction. In Fiscal Year 2013, a Citizen-Soldier out for an evening walk (and texting) was run down by a motor vehicle. In Fiscal Year 2014 another was texting while driving his vehicle resulting in a fatal crash. In Fiscal Year 2015 a third was killed in his automobile when the driver of a commercial truck caused the accident by talking on a cell phone while driving.

DON'T LEAVE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE BEHIND

Enjoy the beach but be safe this summer

Story by ART POWELL

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

A trip to the beach is a summer ritual for millions of Americans, including Soldiers, their Families and Army civilians.

While beach outings offer something for people of all ages, they bring safety risks that can change fun in the sun into something else. Thinking about beach safety, rip currents, weather planning and condition flags can make a beach trip memorable for all the right reasons.

Two Soldiers drowned in off-duty accidents during fiscal 2012. One fell into the water from a hotel boardwalk and could not be resuscitated; another Soldier was swimming with his two children when they were carried from the shore in a rip current. A bystander rescued the children, but the Soldier was pulled out to sea and disappeared.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 10 people die from unintentional drowning every day in the United States. Of these, two are children aged 14 or younger. Drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury and death in the United States, claiming 3,533 lives from 2005-2009.

At the beach

Whether it's uneven terrain, rip currents or unexpected hazardous weather, swimmers in natural water settings must be aware of

hazards and take special precautions to stay safe. Swimming lessons can help protect young children from drowning; however, constant, careful supervision is necessary when children are in or around the water.

"Summer fun comes with new dangers and risks," said Janet Frotischer, president and CEO of the National Safety Council. "If you have to be out in the sun, use sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher, reapply after swimming or perspiring and try to find shaded areas. Always supervise children when playing near and in the water, and never drink alcohol while participating in water activities."

Rip currents

Rip currents can occur along any shoreline with breaking waves, but are prevalent along most U.S. coastlines. They pull swimmers away from shore into deeper water at speeds of up to 8 feet per second and are dangerous to all swimmers, even those with strong skills.

A key to avoiding rip currents is knowing what they look like.

"The signs of a rip current are very subtle and difficult for the average beachgoer to identify," said Richard Scott, safety and occupational health specialist, Ground Directorate, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. "Swimmers should look for differences in the water's color and motion,

incoming wave shape, and breaking point compared to adjacent conditions.

"Look for a channel of churning, choppy water, a line of foam, seaweed or debris moving steadily seaward, or a break in the incoming wave pattern."

Eyes on the sky

Weather information is available to anyone with a weather radio or access to the Internet. Because it's easy to determine what you'll find at the beach and the route you'll take to get there, you shouldn't be surprised.

Even if it's sunny when you hit the beach, be aware conditions can quickly turn ugly with thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds. If you see stormy weather developing, seek shelter and stay in touch with weather warnings.

Know your flags

Flags are the traditional means for providing information to beach and water users. When used properly, they can be an effective element of a comprehensive safety system.

Beach-goers can look for signs, brochures or placards to determine the meaning of various flags. Information is often fixed to the flagpole or indicated on an information board at entrances to the shore.

For additional information on water safety or other summer safety tips, visit <https://safety.army.mil>.

Illustration by Steve Opet

The love of Family and God's grace

By CHAPLAIN (COL.) ALAN POMAVILLE
USARC Chaplain's Office

When I was a young boy my mom and dad were in a car accident. Thankfully, my mother was not hurt badly, but my father suffered a shattered knee which required surgery and months of rehabilitation.

At the time of the accident my parents were raising nine children, were the co-owners of a farm and had just built a new house for our Family.

As a result of the accident, my parents had to sell ownership in the farm and use the funds to pay for medical bills and cover living expenses. By the time dad got back on his feet, all the farm land and money were gone.

How do you respond when life throws you a curveball and something bad happens? How do you bounce back from a set back?

Our Family story is too long to write, but the summary is through faith, God's grace, Family, friends, hard work and tenacity (never quit attitude) our Family made it through the hard times.

Personal resilience is so important and I caught a glimpse of that at a young age of how my dad made it through those tough days, months and years.

One evening I observed my dad get down on his knees next to his bed and pray. I thought my dad was superman and could do anything, so to see him asking God for help left a huge impression on me. He showed me that when life is out of control, we need to turn to the one who is in control – God!

Dad and mom faithfully took us to church and set a good example for us to follow.

How about you? Where do you turn when life gets hard? Are you finding the spiritual resilience and strength to bounce back from adversity?

I'm taking a moment to thank God for a dad who loved his children, worked so hard, and sacrificed to care for his Family.

Dad spent much of his time working, but was always there when we needed him. I hope you were blessed to have had a dad like mine. But if you didn't, the Bible says that God will be a father to the fatherless (Psalms 68:5). Know that you have a loving Father in Heaven who loves you, cares for and sacrificed for you and will always be there when you need Him!

In addition, please know that you have sincere Army Leaders in both the reserve and active component that genuinely care about you and your Family!

If you are struggling with hard times, you don't have to go it alone. Reach out for help if you need it, especially if you are contemplating suicide, and be willing to help others who are going through difficult times as well.

Help is there if you ask, from God, Family, friends, leaders, chaplains/clergy and other organizations.

In our profession, caring for our Soldiers and Families is one of the most meaningful things we can do.

There is nothing more important on anyone's schedule than to help save a life, including your own!

May God bless and keep you! 🇺🇸

FORSCOM/USARC Christian Bible Study

U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command hosts a weekly Christian Bible study.

Studies are held each Tuesday, starting at 11:30 a.m., Room 1901 near the USARC G-4. Please come and share a time of fellowship and worship with us.

July Double Eagle Effect Recipient



Who: Ben Harris

What: Ben is the facilities plumber.

When: Ben on a daily basis over sees every latrine in the facility and continually fixes on-the-spot problems like broken stall doors, stuck toilets, water issues, wrong items put down the toilets, etc.

Where: The entire facility and OCAR.

Why: Ben always has a smile on his face and is willing to assist anyone who is having problems. The job that Ben does no one else wants to do but with all of the safety precautions, Ben always is willing to jump in and fix the problem. Without Ben, at least two latrines would be down daily.

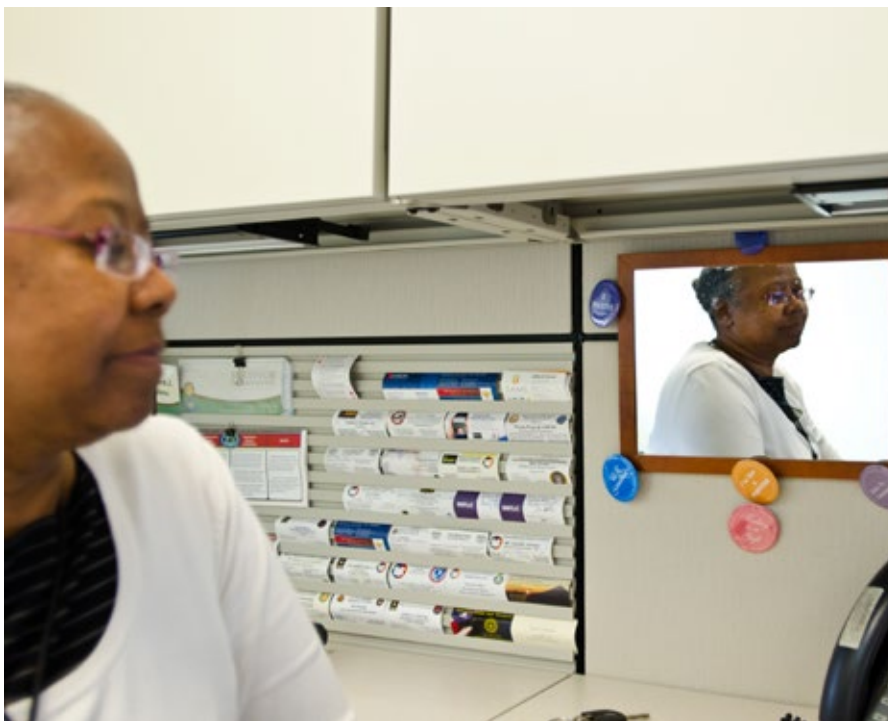
Giddens, Wilson are the Faces of USARC

NAME: Barbara Giddens, Family Programs Liaison

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ASSIGNED TO USARC? I started with USARC July 3, 2011 and have over 25 years of federal service.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THE ARMY RESERVE? My husband is retired military, so I kind of married into this life. There weren't many programs for family members then and I didn't know about others, which disheartened me. I became an Army Community Service Volunteer and got hooked. I like working with programs that support families.

TELL US ONE THING THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU THAT YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW. I'm currently working with a survivor outreach program for survivors of fallen Soldiers and I recently lost my mother. The thoughts and the emotions of those I'm trying to help, I feel. Working with them has helped me deal with the grieving process. Sometimes you have to step back, and you have to take care of yourself.



NAME: Matthew Wilson, Family Programs Readiness Manager

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ASSIGNED TO USARC? I have been with USARC for three years and 31 years combined in federal service, retiring as a 1st Sgt. with the Army.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THE ARMY RESERVE? My military experience allowed me to deal with a lot of Soldiers and families. In doing so as a leader I've developed a great appreciation for them and working here at USARC provided a great way to do it.

TELL US ONE THING THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU THAT YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW. I am a father of three children and if I could of, I would of had five more. My youngest daughter, Kate, drew this rendering of me when she was eight.



Fort Hunter Liggett moving closer to Net Zero energy use

Story by **JULIA BOBICK**

U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. - This summer Fort Hunter Liggett, California will begin the design phase of a \$22 million Energy Conservation Investment Program (ECIP) project that, when complete, will get the California installation to Net Zero energy use.

Submitted to and selected by Department of Defense as part of the fiscal year 2016 ECIP program, the project includes 5 MW of photovoltaic (PV) power generation and a 3MW hour Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Combined with the 2MW PV array already operating and 1MW PV array under construction, the 5MW of solar will enable Fort Hunter Liggett to produce all the energy it consumes, according to Todd Dirmeyer, the installation energy manager.

One of the nine Net Zero Initiative pilot installations selected by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, Fort Hunter Liggett has been inching its way toward its 2020 Net Zero goals through a myriad of small projects.

"The past few years we've been putting in projects 1MW at a time, so we decided to develop a strategy with Fort Hunter Liggett to put together one project that would enable them to achieve Net Zero energy," said Karen R. Moore, ECIP validation program manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville. The Huntsville Center ECIP team validates all the Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard project requests -- more than 200 a year -- to ensure packets are complete and determine the strongest projects (based on the DOD ECIP criteria) that will move forward for potential funding.

Moore said they were thrilled when DOD selected the Fort Hunter Liggett project for funding, calling it "the poster child" for the FY 16 ECIP. "This

is the first installation that will achieve Net Zero through an ECIP-funded project," she said.

The unique thing about the 5MW solar project is that it will include some 500,000 square feet of roof-mounted PV, according to Dirmeyer. He estimates about 50 buildings will end up being Net Zero buildings, because when the roof-mounted PV is operational those buildings will produce at least as much energy as they consume.

This will be the second BESS project for Fort Hunter Liggett; the first 1MW hour system has been operational for about eight months, according to Dirmeyer.

"The battery storage is part of the Net Zero equation -- right now we charge it during the day with any excess solar we have, and we discharge it at night to help meet our off-peak loads -- but it's also part of our energy security solution," Dirmeyer said. "We are working parallel paths toward Net Zero and energy security."

Other FY 13-16 projects helping the 165,000-acre Army Reserve installation along the Net Zero path include LED interior lighting upgrades; advanced electric meters; electrical substation upgrades; solar panels with Enhanced Microgrid Control Systems; and heating, ventilating and air conditioning system improvements. New housing units completed in March were designed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-Silver energy efficiency standards and the operational readiness training complex currently under construction will be LEED-Silver certifiable when complete. In addition, the waste water treatment plant is being upgraded to not only improve efficiency but also prepare the building to house a waste-to-energy system that will generate electricity through gasification of waste products, according to the Sacramento District

Corps of Engineers, which manages these facility and renewable energy construction projects on the installation.

Dirmeyer has also sought out a variety of incentive programs and funding sources to achieve its goals. In addition to ECIP funds, the installation has also taken advantage of funds and grants from DOD's Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP), the Army Energy and

Utility Program, the California Energy Commission and the Department of Energy Federal Energy Management Program, as well as Utility Energy Services Contracting with the local energy company.

"I have a great team and a great network of people who have enabled us to get where we are," said Dirmeyer, the Army's 2014 Energy Manager of the Year. "I would like for us to be a model for this country and the world to follow." 🇺🇸



Solar panel arrays form a canopy at Fort Hunter Liggett, California. The site, photographed in March 2013, is the first two phases of an Energy Conservation Investment Program (ECIP) solar microgrid project, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District. A Fiscal Year 2016 ECIP project with additional rooftop solar panels, as well as a second battery energy storage system, will bring the installation to Net Zero energy once operational. (Photo by John Prettyman/USACE Sacramento District)



**Don't deal with a
problem alone. Reach
out to a helping hand!**

- ▶ Talk to your Battle Buddy and chain of command
- ▶ Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK [8255]

It takes COURAGE to ask for help when needed